

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 L-03 SS-15 H-02 /083 W

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R 301025Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3132

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BR

SUBJECT: US-BRAZIL TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 199587 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. GOB REQUESTS DEFERRAL OF BILATERAL TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15 IF NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE HELD IN BRASILIA OR UNTIL AFTER CARNIVAL IN EARLY MARCH IF US INSISTS ON WASHINGTON VENUE. GOB WOULD PREFER BRASILIA AS VENUE TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 25, AND AGAIN ON DECEMBER 29, ECONOMIC CONSELOR DISCUSSED DATES AND VENUE FOR BILATERAL TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SERGIO ROUANET, CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S COMMERCIAL POLICY DIVISION. ROUANET SAID THERE HAD BEEN AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN GOB'S TIMETABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US SINCE BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR'S DISCUSSIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT. BRAZIL'S LATEST ROUND OF TEXTILE NEGOTIA-

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TIONS WITH EC HAD NOT AT ALL BEEN PRODUCTIVE, AND IN AN

ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME IMPASSE EC AND BRAZIL HAD AGREED TO HOLD THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN BRUSSELS IN THE SECOND HALF OF JANUARY. THIS WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE NEGOTIATIONS WITH US TEAM THAT MONTH. ROUANET ALSO SAID THAT BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTING HIM TO SUGGEST FLEXIBILITY ON VENUE AND THAT GOB CONINUED TO PREFER BRASILIA. NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE MUCH EASIER HERE BECAUSE THE BRAZILIAN TEAM'S SUPERIORS WOULD BE NEARBY AND NEW POSITIONS COULD BE CLEARED EASILY.

3. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FURTHER DELAY. IN HIS RESPONSE ROUANET STRESSED THAT BRAZILIAN SIDE HAD BEEN READY EARLIER IN THE YEAR TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT AT THAT TIME US SIDE WAS UNABLE TO DO SO. FORTHCOMING BRAZILIAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC WERE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONES FOR BRAZIL'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY. ROUANET ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT BRAZILIAN SIDE COULD NOT PREDICT AT THIS POINT PRECISELY HOW LONG NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC WOULD LAST AND THAT GOB REQUIRED A WEEK'S PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US. ROUANET ULTIMATELY AGREED TO TWO ALTERNATIVES: (A) TALKS IN BRASILIA THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15 AND (B) TALKS IN WASHINGTON AFTER CARNIVAL (MARCH 1-2) IN EARLY MARCH. HE STRESSED THAT UNDER THE FEBRUARY DATE THE BRAZILIAN NEGOTIATORS WOULD JUST BE RETURNING FROM NEGOTIATIONS IN BRUSSELS AND THAT FOR THIS REASON THE GOB WOULD WISH TO HOLD TO A BRASILIA VENUE UNDER THAT ALTERNATIVE.
CRIMMINS

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